

# Focus on Fifth

Weekly News for Holmes Fifth-Grade Families

News and Events in the 5th Grade

September 15th, 2014

[www.op97.org](http://www.op97.org)

## Important Dates

Weeks of Sept. 8 and 15	MAP Testing
September 17, 6-8 p.m.	PTO Garden Harvest
September 26	The Windy Tall Ship Field Trip
September 27, 5-7:30 p.m.	PTO Fall Carnival
October 6	School Pictures
October 10	Institute Day (No School)
October 23-24	Parent/Teacher Conferences (half days)

## News

- We are excited to welcome Marc Lacey, Managing Editor of Weekends at *The New York Times*, to speak to our students about interviewing techniques Monday morning. Mr. Lacey is the brother of our speech pathologist, Beth Lacey.
- We loved meeting so many families at our Curriculum Night. If you were not able to attend or want to review the presentation, we have uploaded a pdf of the slides on our wiki at this link:

<http://holmes5thgrade.wikispaces.com>

- We are scheduled for our **first field trip** on Friday, September 26. The entire fifth grade will board The Windy tall ship at Navy Pier and sail on Lake Michigan while we learn about the physics of sailing, pirate lore, and the history of sailing on the Great Lakes. Permission slips went home last week and are posted on the wiki. Please be sure to return these promptly, as we must pay in advance. Please note that chaperones are required to pay as well.

## Typing Practice

Students can log on to Custom Typing from home to practice keyboarding skills. The Custom Typing program is accessible from the District's website, and students should begin practicing keyboarding skills at home. The link is:

<http://www.op97.org/technology/Custom-Typing.cfm>

---

## SPECIAL AREA SUBJECTS

**Art** - [www.owholmesartgallery.blogspot.com](http://www.owholmesartgallery.blogspot.com) 5th grade artists are spending the first few weeks

(classes) of Art creating a radial design out of their names. Their name will be repeated eight times around a central axis. The result will be an abstract design resembling a mandala or a rose window.

**Music** - <http://makingmusicatholmes.blogspot.com/> We have started West African drumming and are learning the song "Banuwa". This year our showcase will be featuring music from Africa. More information will come next week about the date of the event.

**Chorus** - We had a wonderful first rehearsal for chorus. They sang in four-part harmony! Please remember to turn in your child's permission slip if you have not yet. I will be emailing you a online permission slip with information on our performance at the Oak Park Arms.

**Gold Belt**- We had an informational meeting and will start rehearsing this Wednesday. Gold Belt Ensemble will be performing at the Oak Park Arms as well so you will be receiving a online permission slip as well.

**Spanish** - Fifth grade students have begun their first story of the year in Spanish class. They have been doing a great job of getting back into the habit of speaking only Spanish when in class. The stories will be posted to the blog when completed. <http://www.mpoleski.blogspot.com/> .

**Library** - Welcome to a new year in the library! It was a fabulous week meeting new friends and seeing familiar faces. This coming week we will be discussing book care and checking out books. Fifth graders are welcome to check out three library books at a time, for two weeks. Books can be renewed (unless there is a hold on the book), and students will have the opportunity to check out more than three books when research projects dictate. Please email [mmaneck@op97.org](mailto:mmaneck@op97.org) with any questions, or stop by the library during curriculum night. For more information, the library home page is <http://www.op97.org/holmes/mediacenter/> .

**Physical Education** - International Walk To School day is on Wednesday, October 8, 2014. The flier for this event is posted on our school's digital backpack. ([www.d97mrwilliams.blogspot.com](http://www.d97mrwilliams.blogspot.com))

International Walk To School day is on Wednesday, October 8, 2014.

### **Reading/Literature**

As students continue to log their reading at home and school and analyze the data from their reading logs, Reader's Workshop mini lessons will continue to support students' reading stamina, fluency, and engagement. Topics include strategies for learning new words from books, the art of reading and thinking with a partner, and options for retelling what you read by starting at the beginning and moving forward or by starting with what you just read and then filling in necessary information. At home and at school, we will nudge students to balance their reading and thinking about their reading. Students should pause two or three times during their reading to note what they are thinking (e.g. reaction, prediction, inference) on Post-its and flag those pages to share later with a reading partner.

### **Writing**

5th graders are participating in a mini-unit focused on interviewing and reporting on a classmate. Students will continue to review the interviews that they recorded on their Ipad. Then, they will take notes on information that they deem to be important, as well as, ask follow-up questions to their peers. Students will continue to work on their rough drafts of their articles. Our writing mini-lessons will focus on organization of informational writing and editing/ revising.

### **Math**

This week, 5K and 5M students will begin flexible grouping for math. While both Ms. Kraft and Ms. Manuel will be following the same 5th grade curriculum, Ms. Kraft will be moving at a faster pace. Students will be assigned to a section based on pretest information and MAP scores. Groups may

change at the end of the unit, or as more data becomes available. Students in 5F and 5P will continue to receive differentiated instruction with their current math teacher.

Graded quizzes will be returned to students by the end of the week. This week, we continue our study of multiplication. We will be focusing on the area model of multiplication and students will learn how the area model relates to partial products and the standard algorithm for multiplication. There will be a short quiz on Friday covering the area model. Students have created interactive math journals which will serve as both a reference and a place in which to record their thinking about problem solving. This week, students will add information on the various ways in which to represent multiplication.

### **Science**

This week, we will take our gnomon to the blacktop and collect data on the length of shadows in five-minute intervals. Students will question why the shadow length changes over time and will predict what will happen if we measure the shadow each afternoon at the same time over the course of two weeks. We will then graph our data. We also will work on writing in the context area with a lesson on reading informational texts.

### **Social Studies**

This week we will continue to work from the book, If the World Were A Village. It contains statistics such as global languages, incomes, resource use, and ages all adjusted to if the world were a village of 100 people. We will continue to read the book and students will complete a number of graphing activities designed to help them understand the information.

### **Spelling/Word Study**

Next week we will begin Word Study using our new program that focuses on Greek and Latin Roots.

Visit the **Holmes Digital Backpack** - <http://www.op97.org/holmes/digitalbackpack/>

**We're on the Web!**

Visit us at: <http://holmes5thgrade.wikispaces.com/>

Mr. Finkbeiner  
[afinkbeiner@op97.org](mailto:afinkbeiner@op97.org)

Ms. Kraft  
[fkraft@op97.org](mailto:fkraft@op97.org)

Ms. Manuel  
[mmanuel@op97.org](mailto:mmanuel@op97.org)

Mr. Porter  
[cporter@op97.org](mailto:cporter@op97.org)